(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Government of Andhra Pradesh have not fully utilised the central share given to them during the previous years. Release of additional amount would be considered on receipt of utilization certificate and the progress report of the earlier years.

Making saline land fit for farming

1185. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seawater, after the tsunami strike, had left saline deposits on large tracks of agricultural land in affected states like Tamil Nadu as has been revealed by a soil test of 125 acres in some villages by the BITSunami Trust, who had adopted some villages in Nagapattinam district;

(b) whether any action has been taken to avoid permanent damage by removing topsoil layer in such affected villages to make the land fit for farming; and

(c) whether farming activities have resumed in all the tsunami-ravaged villages in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The intrusion of sea water due to Tsunami has affected the agricultural lands in several coastal districts including Nagapattinum in the State of Tamil Nadu. Based on salinity assessment of 42813 soil samples, measures like leaching of salts, scrapping of sand and silt, application of gypsum, green manuring, and use of salinity tolerant crops, etc. have been taken to improve the soils condition and make them fit for farming in the Tsunami affected fields.

(c) Out of 8460.34 hectares affected by Tsunami in Tamil Nadu, 5400.0 hectares have already been brought under cultivation. As regards Andhra Pradesh, soil condition has hot deteriorated to affect the farming activities.